Articles to be inquired

of, in the first Metropoliticall Visitation, of the most Reuerend Father: *Richard* by Gods prouidence Arch-bushop of Canterbury, and Primat of all ENGLAND, in, and for the Dioces of PETERBOROVGH, in the yeare of our Lord God 1607. and in the third yeare of his Graces Translation.

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THE

Tenor of the Oath, to be miniſtred to the Churchwardens and Sworne-men.

YOV ſhall ſweare, that all affection, fauor, hatred, hope of reward and gaine, or feare of diſpleaſure or mallice ſet aſide: You ſhall vpon due conſideration of the Articles giuen you in charge: preſent all and euery ſuch perſon, of, or within your Pariſh: as hath committed any offence or fault: or made any default mentioned in thieſe, or any of thieſe Articles: or which are vehemently ſuſpected and defamed of any ſuch offence: fault or default: wherein you ſhall deliuer vprightly, and according to truth: neyther of mallice: preſenting any contrary to truth: nor of corrupt affection ſparing to preſent any, and ſo conceale the truth: Hauing in this action God before your Eyes: with an earneſt zeale to maintaine truth, and ſo ſuppreſſe vice: So helpe you God, and the Contents of this booke.

God ſaue the King.

ARTICLES

To be inquired of, by the Churchwardens and Sworne-men: in the Visitation of the Lord Arch-bushop of Canterbury: within the Diocesse of PETERBOROVGH.

Anno Dom. 1607.

IN PRIMIS, Whether have you in your seuerall Churches and Chappels, the booke of Constitutions or Cannons Ecclesiasticall, ready to be reade by your Minister, according to his Maiesties pleasure, published by his Highnes Authoritie, vnder the great Seale of England, and whether hath your Minister reade the same or any part thereof vpon Sundaies and Holidaies, in the afternoone before diuine seruice accordingly, yea or no?

2 Item, Whether is there any within your parish, that hath or doth impugne, the Kings Maiesties supremacie, and authoritie in causes Ecclesiasticall: or doe any way or in any part impeach the same, being restored to the Crowne by the Lawes of this Realme established in that behalfe?

3 Item, Whether is there any in your parish, that denieth the Church of England, by Lawe established vnder the Kings most excellent Maiestie, to be a true and an Apostolicall church, teaching and mainteyning the Doctrine of the Apostles?

4 Item Whether is there any in your parish, that doth impugne any of the Articles of Religion, agreed vpon in Anno, 1562, and esta-

eſtabliſhed in the Church of England.

5 Item, Whether doth your miniſter vſe to pray for the Kings Maieſtie King Iames, and for the Quenes Maieſtie, the Prince and all their Royall Progeny, with addition of ſuch Stile and Titles, as are due and appertaining to his Maieſtie, and exhort the people to obedience, to his Highnes, and other Maieſtrats being in authoritie vnder him?

6 Item, Whether is there any in your pariſh, that doe impugne, or ſpeake againſt the Rites and Ceremonies, eſtabliſhed in the Church of England, or the lawful vſe of them, you ſhall preſent their names.

7 Item, Are there any in your pariſh, that doe impugne the gouernment of the Church of England, vnder the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie by Arch-buſhops, Buſhops, Deanes, Arch-deacons, and the reſt that beare office in the ſame: Affirming that the ſame is Ante-chriſtian, or repugnant to the worde of God.

8 Item, Is there any in your Pariſh, that doth impugne the forme of conſecrating and ordeining of Arch-buſhops, Buſhops, Prieſts or Deacons, affirming that the ſame is repugnant to the worde of God, or that they who are ſo ordered in that forme are not lawfully made.

9 Item, Is there any in your pariſh, that doth holde or frequent any conuenticles, or priuate congregations, or any that doe either make or maintaine any Conſtitutions, agreed vpon in any ſuch priuate Conuenticles or aſſemblies?

10. Item Whether any perſons haue lurked and tippled in Tauernes or Ale-houſes, on ſundaies or other holidaies, or vſed his or their manuall craft or trade, vpon the ſaid daies or any of them, and eſpecially in the time of diuine ſeruice.

11. Item Are there any in your pariſh, that doe or haue prophaned (ſince his Maieſties laſt generall pardon) the Lords day called ſunday, or other holidaies contrarie to the orders of the Church of England, preſcribed in that behalfe?

12 Item, Whether is the preſcript forme of diuine ſeruice, vſed by your Miniſter, vpon Sundaies and Holidaies, according to the booke of common prayer? And whether doth your Miniſter duely obſerue all the Orders, Rites and Ceremonies, preſcribed in the ſaid booke of common prayer, as well in reading puplique prayers,

ers, the Letany, as also in administring the Sacraments, in such manner and forme as in the booke of common prayer is inioyned?

13 Item, Whether hath any person in your parish quarrelled or stricken, or vsed any violence vnto or with your Minister, or any other in the church or church-yard, or vsed himselfe disorderly in the church by filthy and prophane talke, or any other rude and immodest behaviour?

14 Item whether is that due reverence, and humble submission vsed within your Church or Chappell, in the time of Divine service, as by the 18. constitution is prescribed, whether each one in the Church or Chappell do apply and order himselfe there in time of divine Service, as by the latter part of the same Constitution is most commendably enioyned?

15 Item, Whether the Church-wardens and Questmen, from time to time doe their dilligence, in not suffring any idle persons or loyterers, to abide either in the Church-yard or Church-porch in Service or Sermon time, but causing them either to come into the Church to heare Divine service, or to depart, and not to disturbe such as are hearers there.

16 Item Whether the Church-wardens doe provide against every Communion with the advice of the Minister, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholesome Wine in the number of the Communicants that shall receive, and that the brought in a cleane and sweet standing pot of pewter or of other pure mettle.

17 Item, Whether doth your Minister administer the holy Communion so often, and at such times as that every parishioner may receive the same at least thrice in every yere, whereof once at Easter, as by the booke of common prayer is appointed: And whether doth your Minister receive the same himselfe, on every day that he administreth it to others, and vse the words of the Institution according to the booke at every time that the Bread or Wine is renued in such manner and forme as by the Provisio of the 21. Canon is directed, or wherein is he faultie: and whether is warning given him before hand for the Communion, as the 22. Canon requireth?

18 Item, Whether hath your Minister admitted any Notorious Sinners, or Schismatickes to the Communion: contrary to the

26. and 27. constitutions.

19 Item, Whether the Minister together with the Churchwardens & Questmen, doe take diligent hæde and care: not only that all and euery of your owne parishioners, doe receiue thrice in euery yeare as aforesaid: but also, that no straungers of any other parish doe come often, and cõmonly to your church from their owne parish church: and you are now to present the names of all those, who being 16. yeares of age or vpwards, and haue not in their owne parish receiued the Communion, at or since Easter last?

20 Item, Haue any in your parish bin Godfathers or Godmothers to their owne children: or whether your Minister, or any Godfathers or Godmothers haue vsed, or do vse any other forme, aunswere or speach in Baptisme: then is in the booke of common prayer appointed? or whether any which haue not communicated, be admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers?

21 Item, Whether doth your Minister vse to signe the children with the signe of the crosse, when they are baptised: according to the booke of common prayer? and whether he hath deferred, or wilfully refused, to baptise any Infant in his parish being in daunger, hauing bin duely informed of the weakenes thereof: and whether the childe hath died in his default without Baptisme?

22 Item, whether is your Minister continually resident with you vpon his benefice. or for how long time hath he bin absent? And where is he resiant for the most part, and what other benefice hath he?

23 Item, Whether doth your Minister preach dually, according to the constitutions. eyther in his owne cure with you, or else in some other church or chappell nere adioyning, where no preacher is? or how often hath he bin negligent in that behalfe?

24 Item, Whether is your Minister a preacher allowed, if yea: then by whom? if not, whether doth he procure Sermons to be preached among you once in euery month at the least, by such as are lawfully licensed?

25 Item, Whether hath your minister an other benefice, and whether doth he supply his absence by a Curat that is sufficiently licensed to preach in that cure of his, wheron he himselfe is not resident? or otherwise in case he doth not finde a preaching minister there by reason of the smallnes thereof? whether doth he preach at both of his benefices dually himselfe?

26. Item

26. Item, Whether is your curat licensed to serue by the Bu-
shop of this Dioces, or by any other, and by whom?
27 Item, Whether doth your Minister or Curat serue any more
cures then one? if yea, then what other cure doth he also serue?
28 Item, If your minister be not licensed to preach as aforesaid,
whether doth he take vpon him to expound the Scriptures eyther
in his owne cure or else where? if yea, then you are to present him,
and specifie the place where he so hath preached?
29 Item Whether hath any person bin admitted to preach within
your church or chappell, but such as you haue well knowne to be
sufficiently licensed? whom haue you so admitted, you shal present //
their names: & how often haue any such bin so admitted to preach,
and by whose procurement? And whether haue you caused euery
straunge preacher, licensed, or not licensed, to subscribe his name
together with the day when he preached: & if he were licēsed, then
by whom was he licensed? And whether haue they or any other
preached in your church not being soberly & decently apparelled?
30 Item, Whether doth your Lector and preacher reade diuine
seruice, and administer the Sacraments in his owne person, //
twice euery yeare: obseruing all the Ceremonies in the booke of
common prayer established?
31 Item, Is there any in your parish, that do refuse to haue their
children baptised: or themselues to receiue the Communion at //
the hands of your Minister, because he is no preacher. You shall
present their names. And if your minister sithence the publishing
of the said booke of Canons, hath receiued any such persons (being
not of his owne cure) to the Communion, or baptised any of their
children: you shall likewise present him?
32 Item, Whether doth your minister weare the surplice, whilst
he is saying the publique prayers, and ministring the Sacra-
ments? And if he be any Graduat, whether then doth he also
weare vpon his surplice during the times aforesaid, such a Hood
as by the orders of his Vniuersitie is agreeable to his degree?
33 Item, Whether doth your Minister euery Sunday and holli-
day before Euening prayer, for halfe an houre or more, examine
and instruct the youth and ignorant persons of his parish, in the
commandements, Articles of beliefe, and in the Lords prayer, as
also in the Catechisme, set forth in the booke of common prayer?

And whether doe all fathers, mothers, maisters and mistresses, cause their children, seruants and apprentises, to come thither to heare and to be instructed and taught therein, and those that doe not their duties herein, you shall present their names?

34 Item, Whether hath your ministers without license from the Archbushop, the Bushop of this Diocesse or his Chancelor, solemnized mariage betwixt any parties, the banes not being three seuerall sundaies or hollidaies first published, in time of diuine seruice, in the seuerall churches or chappels, of their seuerall abode according to the booke of common prayer, and that also betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone. And furthermore, whether hath your minister since the last Cannons published, solemnized any mariage betwixt any persons being vnder the age of 21. yeares, although the banes be thrice asked, before such time as the parents haue made knowne vnto him their consent thereunto, and whether hath he married any of another Diocesse, who are they? and by what authoritie, and when?

35 Item, Whether doth your minister euery sunday, hid holidaies and fasting daies, as by the booke of common prayer is appointed?

36 Itē whether doth your minister euery 6 monethes, denounce in his parish, all such of his parish as doe persiuer in the sentence of excommunication, not seeking to be absolued, and whether hath he admitted into the church any person excommunicat, without a certificat of his absolutiō frō ỹ ordinary or other competent iudge?

37 Item, Whether doth your minister being a preacher, endeuor and labor diligently, to reclaime the popish recusants, in his parish from their errors: if there be any such abiding? and whether is he painefull in visiting the sicke according to the booke of common prayer?

38 Item, Whether is your parson vicar or curat, to frequent or to be ouer-conuersant with, or a fauorer of recusants, whereby he is suspected not to be sincere in religion.

39 Item Whether doe you know or haue heard of any payment, composition or agreement, to, or with the Bushop, Chancellor, or any inferior officer Ecclesiastical, for suppressing or concealing of excōmunication, or other Ecclesiasticall censure, of, or against any recusante what summe of money, or other consideration hath bin receiued or promised? by, or to any of them in ỹ respect, by whom?

and

and with whom? and for what summe or other consideration?

40 Item, Whether is there in your Church or Chappell one parchment Register booke, prouided for Christnings, Marriages, and Burials, and whether is the same duely and exactly kept according to the Constitutions in that behalfe prouided?

41 Item, whether hath your minister or any other preacher baptised children, solemnized Mariage, churched any woman, or ministred the holy Communion in any priuate house or houses, otherwise then as by law is allowed yea or no? if yea, then where? whom? when and how often hath he offended in any of the Premisses?

42 Item, Whether hath your minister taken vpon him to appoint any publicque or priuate Fasts, prophecies, or exercises not approued and established by Law or publique authoritie, or hath he attempted vpon any pretence eyther of possession or obsession, by fasting and prayer to cast out deuils yea or no?

43 Item, Whether hath your minister or any other person or persons within your parish vsed to meete in any priuat house or other place, there to consult together, how to impeach or depraue the booke of common prayer, or the doctrine or discipline of the church of England, if yea, then you shall present them all?

44 Item, Whether doth your minister vse such decency and comlines in his apparell, as by the 74 constitution is inioyned?

45 Item, Whether doe you know any in your parish that hauing heretofore taken vpon him or them, the order of Priest-hood or of a Deacon hath since relinquished the same, and betaken himselfe in the course of his life as a lay-man neglecting his vocation, if yea, then you shall present his name, and the place of his abode?

46 Item, Doth any take vpon him to teach Schoole in your parish without speciall licence of his ordinary? and whether doth your Schoolemaister bring his Schollers to the church to heare diuine seruice and sermons?

47 Item, Whether is your minister noted or defamed to haue obteined his benefice by symony, or reputed to be an incontinent person, a common drunkard, a common gamster, or player at dice, or faulty in any other crime punishable by the Ecclesiastical censures, whereby he is offensiue and scandalous to his function or ministery.

48 Item, Whether haue you prouided the booke of common pray-

ly set forth by his Maiesties authoritie, and the booke of Homilies, and whether haue you in your Church or chappell a Font of stone set vp in the ancient vsuall place, a conuenient and decent Communion table with a carpet of silke, or some other decent stuffe, and a faire linnen cloth to lay thereon at the Communion time: and whether is the same Table then placed in such conuenient sort within the Chauncell or church, as that the minister may be best heard in his prayer and administration, and that the greater number may communicate: And whether are the x. commandements set vpon the East ende of your Church or Chappell, where the people may best see and read them, and other sentences of holy scripture written on the walls likewise for that purpose?

49 Item, Whether haue you a conuenient seate for your minister to reade seruice in, together with a comely Pulpit set vp in a conuenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same: a comely large surplice, a faire Communion cup of gold, siluer, or other pure mettle, and a couer agreeable for the same, with all other things and ornaments necessarie for the celebration of Diuine seruice and administration of the Sacraments?

50 Item, Whether are your church or chappels with the Chancels thereof, and your parsonage or vickeredge house and all other housing thereto belonging in good reparations, and decent and comely kept as well within as without, the seates well maintained, a sure coffer with three lockes and keyes for the safe keeping of your Register booke, your churchyards wel fenced & kept without abuse, if not, then through whose default and what defects are?

51 Item, Whether haue you or your predecessors Church-wardens there suffered since the last pardon, any plaies, feasts, banquets, churchales, or inkings, or any other prophane vsages, to be kept in your church, chappels or church-yard, or bels to be rung superstitiously vpon hollidaies or dayes abrogated by Lawe?

52 Item, How many inhabitants within your parish, men or women aboue the age of 16 yeres, do refuse to frequent diuine seruice established by publique authoritie of this realme, or to receiue the holy Communion, what be their names, and of what degree state or trade of life are they, you are to present them all of both sorts?

53 Item, Whether doe any of the inhabitants of your said parish entertaine within their house any sojourners, lodgers, or any com-

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mon reloyters and guests, who refuse to frequent diuine seruice, or receiue the holy Communion as aforesaid, what be their names? of what qualitie or condition they are?

54 Item, Whether are any of the said popish recusants of insolent behauiour not without publique offence, or doe boldly busy themselues in seducing & withdrawing others, either abroad or in their owne families by instructing their children in popish religion, or by refusing to entertaine any especially in place of greatest seruice or trust, but such as concurre with them in opinion of religion?

55 Item, How long the said popish Recusants haue obstinately abstained, eyther from diuine seruice or from the Communion as is aforesaid: Whether of any long time, or onely since his Maiesties raigne?

56 Item, Whether is your Minister a preacher sufficiently qualified and if he be, whether doth he from time to time offer quiet and temperate conference to reclaime the said popish Recusants from their errors: and whether they or any of them doe refuse such conference with your Minister or any other Preacher, who shall present vnto them his dilligence in that behalfe?

57 Item, What persons aforesaid within your parish either for th'offence aforesaid, or for any other Contumacy, or crime, doe remaine excommunicat, what be their names and for what cause, and how long they haue so stood excommunicate?

58 Item, Whether were you the Churchwardens and Questmen chosen by the consent of the Minister and parishioners: and whether haue the churchwardens before you, giuen vp a iust accompt for their time, and deliuered to you their successors whatsoeuer money or other things of right belonging to the Church, which was in their hands, and whether doe you and euery of you dilligently see that all the Parishioners doe duely resort to their church euery sunday and holiday, and there continue the whole time of diuine seruice, and none to walke or stand idle, or talking in church or churchporch, or churchyard during that time: and whether doe all the parishioners and their families accordingly frequent their parish church, and there behaue themselues soberly, attentiuely and decently, all the time of diuine seruice, yea or no? if no, then you shall present their names?

59 Item, Whether doe all persons aboue th'age of 16 yeeres, vsu-

ally resort to heare diuine seruice vpon sundayes and holidayes appoynted, and whether hath each one of your parishioners, (being aboue th'age of 16. yéeres aforesaid) receiued the holy Communion thrice this last yéere, chiefely once at Easter in your parish church kneeling, if no, then you shall present their names which haue not so done?

60 Item, Whether haue you a fit parish Clarke aged twenty yeeres at least of honest conuersation, and sufficient for reading and writting, and whether he be paide his wages without fraude according to the most auncient custome of your parish, if not, then by whom is he so defrauded and denied? and whether he be chosen by the parson or vicar or by whom?

61 Item, Whether haue any in your parish béene maried within the prohibited degrées, forbidden by the Lawe of God, and expressed in a certaine table published by authoritie in Anno, 1563 if yea, then you shall present their names, and whether haue you the said Table publiquely set vp in your church, and fastened to some conuenient place there?

62 Item, Whether doth any heretofore diuorced kéepe company with any other at bed and at bord? what be their names? When and where were they maried?

63 Item, Doth your minister vse the forme of thankes-giuing to women after Childe-birth, and whether hath he admitted any thereunto, that was begotten with child in adultery or fornication without licence of his ordinarie, and whether haue any maried wiues refused to come to church according to the booke of common prayer, to giue God thankes after child-birth, if any be faulty herein you shall present their names?

64 Item Whether haue you any in your parish which heretofore being papish recusants or sectuaries, haue since conformed themselues and come to church to heare diuine seruice and receiue the Sacraments if yea, then who they are, and how long sithence haue they so conformed themselues, and whether doe they still remaine and abide in that conformitie?

65 Item, What recusant papists are there in your parish, and whether doe they or any of them kéepe any Schoole-maister in their house, which commeth not to church to heare diuine seruice and receiue the Communion? what is his name, and how long hath

hath he taught?

66 Item, Whether haue you any in your parish to your knowledge or by common fame and report, any which haue committed adulterie fornication or incest, which haue not bin publiquely punished to your knowledge? if yea, then with whom? Are there any which are or by common fame and report are reputed and taken to be common drunkards, blasphemers of Gods holy name, common and vsuall swearers, filthy speakers, Vsurers, vnmoniall persons, Fighters, Brawlers, or Quarellers in church or churchyard, you shall not faile to present their names?

67 Item, Whether haue any in your parish receiued or harbored any woman gotten with childe out of Wedlocke, and suffered them to depart againe without punishment first inflicted on them by their ordinary, you shall truely present as well the partie harboring as harbored, and who is suspected to be father of her child?

68 Item, Whether hath any person within your parish promised or payed any summe of money or other reward directly or indirectly by himselfe or any other, or committed his or her pennance for any incest, adultery, fornication, or any other Ecclesiasticall crime, if so, then with whom? when? and for what? and how hath the same bene imployed?

69 Item, Whether is your Chancelor, and euery other inferior Ecclesiasticall iudge a maister of Artes, or Batchelor of Lawes at the least, and learned and practised in the ciuill and Ecclesiasticall Lawes, a man of good life and conuersation and zealously affected in Religion?

70 Item, Whether any person or persons suspected or detected heretofore of incontinency, and therefore departing out of your parish for a season is now returned againe, or in what place else is he or she now abiding to your knowledge or as you haue heard? you shall not faile to present the whole truth in that behalfe?

71 Item, Whether are there in your parish any Wills not yet proued, or goods of the dead dying intestate left vnadministred by authoritie of the ordinarie in that behalfe? you shal not faile to present the Executors, and all other faulty and culpable therein?

72 Item, Hath any Chancellor, Commissary, Arch-deacon, officiall, or any other exercising Ecclesiasticall Iurisdiction within this your Diocesse, or any Register, Apparator, or Minister be-

longing

longing to the same Ecclesiasticall courts, exacted extraordinary or greater fées then heretofore of late haue béene accustomed, and whether is there a table of the rates of all fées set vp in their seuerall Courts and Offices or whether they or any of them haue taken vpon them th' office of Informers or Promoters to the courts, or any other way abused themselues in their Offices contrary to the Lawes and Cannons in that case prouided?

73 Item, Doe any, of, or within your Parish affirme, or haue they affirmed that the sacred synode of this nation assembled by the Kings authoritie, is not the true church of England by representation: or hath or doth any of your parish affirme, that no persons eyther of the Clergie or Laitie, that were not pertinently present in the said late Synode, are subiect to the decrées thereof in causes Ecclesiasticall, made and ratified by the Kings supreame authoritie: because they gaue not vp their voices vnto them, yée shall present their names?

74 Item, Is there any among you, that haue or doe depraue the foresaid late Synode, saying or affirming, that the same was a company of such persons as did conspire togither against godly and religious professors of the Gospell, and that therefore both they and their proceedings in that behalfe are and ought to be despised and contemned or words to the like effect, you shall not faile to present their names?

75 Item, What number of Apparators hath euery seuerall iudge Ecclesiasticall, and wherein, and in what manner is the countrey ouer-burthened and grieued by the said Apparators?

76 Item, Whether doe you know of any other matter of Ecclesiasticall cognisance, worthy the presentment in your iudgement aboue not expressed, which you holde fit to be reformed, and if you doe, you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Oaths?

FINIS.

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